Operations on the Tennessee River Below Pulaski.

FORREST'S ADVANCE.

Schoffeld's Retreat Secured to Columbia.

A VALUABLE PAPER

From the Personal Memoirs of General Horace Capron.

Upon the fall of Atlanta my brigadge-composed of the following regiments and parts of regiments, to wit: The Fourteenth regiment Illinois cavalry, Eighth regiment Michigan cavslry, Fifth regiment Indiana cavalry, Twelfth regiment Kentucky cavalry, Sixteenth regiment Illinois cayalry-having served through the Atlanta campaign under General Sherman, were sent back to Nicholasville, Kentucky, to be remounted and rearmed with the most approved cavalry arms, and, with all possible dispatch, to be prepared to rejoin our army at Atlanta preparatory to a further advance into the Confed-

The Fifth Indiana cavalry, having been furloughed at Nicholasville for the purpose of allowing them to go home to vote, did not return in time to join the brigade for this campaign. Many from the other regiments were also granted leave of absence at the same time, thus reducing my actual force to about 1,200 men.

On arriving at Nicholasville, under the orders of Major-General J. M. Schofield, I proceeded without delay to make the proper requisitions upon the quartermaster and ordnance officers for the horses, equipments and cavalry arms for the command. It was understood that arms were to be of the most approved weapons, including the Spencer carbine, the one most popular at the time. Under these assurances, the esprit de corps of the command was inspired, as, in their estimation, it was an evidence of the approval by the commanding general of their long and faithful services through the previous campaigns in Tennessee and Georgia.

BADLY EQUIPPED FOR SERVICE. On the following 14th of October our horses and equipments had been received, but no arms, On that day I received a telegraphic dispatch from Major-General Schofield, then at Atlanta, ordering me to report with my command, without delay, to Major-General George H. Thomas, at Nashville, Tenn. The order being peremptory, I was compelled to march without arms, it being understood that cavalry arms would be sent forward by rail to meet us on our arrival there. On arriving at Nashville, on the 29th of October, no cavalry arms could be obtained. The emergency of the service demanding that we should at once take the field, and no other weapons being obtainable, Springfield muskets were served out to the command, a weapon with which these troops had no experience, and a more unsuitable one for the service before them could not be, confronted, as they were likely to be, with one of the best organized and equipped forces in the Confederate service, with Forrest's famous cavalry as its advance guard.

This had a most damaging effect. These men had been much encouraged to expect that they would be properly armed, and they ac- J. M. Schofield was handed me by courier from tually refused to receive these muskets; many broke them around the trees, and an open mutiny was the result, taxing their officers heav ily to quell. As a matter of course the commanding officer came in for his share of the responsibility for their being placed in so undesirable a position. General Thomas' unguarded remark, "they would answer to shoot guerrillas with," was not calculated to lessen the excitement, and I have since thought that at that particular time be could not have fully anticipated the heavy task before him. For this command it proved the most trying ordeal that any cavalry could be subjected to. IN THE PIELD.

On the 30th of October the following order was received from General Thomas' headquar-

COLONIE CAPRON, Commanding Brigade, Sin: I am directed by Major-General Thomas to say that he wishes you to move your brigade, early n the morning to Athens, via Murfreesboro', Shelbyville, Fayetteville and New Market. On your arrival report to Brigadier-General Croxton. Capture and kill all guerrillas in the country over which you pass. Should you hear of any body of them near your line of march, detach a sufficient force to overpower and capture them.

R. W. Johnson Brigadier-General. On the 6th of November I reported with my command to General Stanly at Pulaski from that time to the 13th, was engaged in sending out scouting parties in all directions. On the 13th, under orders from General Stanly, moved my command to Mount Pleasant.

On the 15th, received the following dispatch from Major-General Schoffeld, via Columbia: U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, Nov. 15, 1864. Conoxer: General Hatch reports cavalry and in fantry moving from Florence towards Waynes-boro, and thinks Hood's entire army is moving towards Columbia. General Hatch is moving his entire force in that direction. Communicate with him as soon as practicable, and when your forces most, not under his orders.

Ecopout well to the front, in presence of the enemy, and inform me of his movements; also inform Colonel Strickland, at Colombia. J. M. SCHOPHED. (Signed)

Major General. Major Tompkins, with a detachment of the Fourteenth illinois cavalry, had been detached from my command at Pulseki, to scout towards Laurenceburg. On the 45th, I reported to

Major General Schofield as follows, from my emp at Mount Pleasant: Major Tompkins reported late last night, from Laurenceburg, as follows: "Trains all in, via Co limibia, cross-roads impassable," &c. Other scouts, from various directions, have reported. The most reliable conclusions I can arrive at are, that the rebel force reported at Wayne-boro' was three regiments under Colonel Eucker, sent across the Tenforce passed through Asidand on Friday, thence to Wayne boro', recreeing the Tennessee River som where above. Forcest was at Cherokee, Hood trossed a part of his force to the north side of the Tersuessee, near Turk umbia, on Friday at 12 o'clock

nessee River at Perryville by General Forrest, as he fell lines up the river from Johnsonville. This in, when, the bridge getting out of order, he was delayed for repairs. I have out heavy scouting Parties towards and in Laurenceburg, and towards Waynesbero'. I have sent teams to Columbia for bread and other intions. Could get no bread either at Painski or Columbia on our way through. shall move forward with balance of my comma this and Laurenceburg.

HORACE CAPRON. Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

ON THE LINE OF THE TENNESSEE.

moved my command forward from Mount Pleasant in the direction of Waynesboro', detaching Major Beers with a portion of the Eighth Michigan cavalry, via Laurenceburg, to communicate with General Hatch, if possible, and to report to me at Waynesboro' or at any intermediate point most practicable.

On arriving at Waynesboro', on the 18th of November, I reported to General Schofield, as follows, by courier to Columbia:

WAYNESBORO', 5 p. m., Nov. 18, MAJOR GENERAL J. M. SCHOPHELD,

at Pulaski, Tennessee. Six: I have the honor to report that I occupied this place with my command this day, driving out a detachment of Forrest's cavalry, with a loss to us of one killed, one fatally wounded and one severely. Captured two of Forrest's men. Major Beers, sent out by me from Mount Pleasant, through Laurenceburg, joined me at this

place soon after my arrival. He reports no rebel orce, exceping in small bands of guerrillas on the hills near Campbellsville. He lost one vidette, killed by them. He did not succeed in finding General Hatch occupying that place, as was expected. The intelligence I have from various scouts and citizens (refugees) is that Hood's army is at Florence, mostly on this side of the river, with his advance out fifteen miles, apparently making preparation for an immediate forward movement. Forrest is scouting the country up to this point and Laurenceburg. I can hear nothing from General Hatelshall send out heavy sconting parties in the direction of Florence, and make every effort in my power to communicate with General Hatch. I send you a sketch of the roads radiating from this place, by which you will see that we are isoated-our right and rear being entirely exposed. On our left the nearest road communicating with Laurenceburg is in our rear, eighteen miles on the road to Mount Pleasant thence to Laurencelourg fourteen miles-making thirty-two miles. There is no directly communicating road between the two

Forage is very scarce, there being none on either the Mount Pleasant road or in the country around this. * * * We are fifty-six miles out from Columbia, our base of supplies, with roads next to I learn from a reliable source that there is a Con-

federate force at Clifton, fifteen miles west of this, under Colonel Palifile, and another at Linden. twenty-eight miles northwest from here. The orees driven from Waynesboro' to-day separated a short distance out, pressing guides, and going towards the two points above mentioned, which would appear to confirm the report of the presence of the two Confederate forces at Clifton and Linden. Very respectfully, &c., Horace Carnon,

Commanding Brigade. IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY.

scouts were sent out in all directions towards Florence in our front, and on our right towards the Tennessee River, penetrating as far as Clifton, Savannah, and West Point, and twenty-five miles in the direction of Florence and Hood's army. These scouts were constantly running upon squads of the enemy, indicating that the advance of General Hood could be expected at any moment. The result of these reports were almost hourly dispatched to General Schofield by courier to Columbia and wire to Pulaski.

That my position should be perfectly understood both by General Schofield at Pulaski and General Wilson at Columbia, I sent the following report to General Wilson:

HEADQUARTERS IST BRIG. C. C., DEP. OHIO, WAYNESBORO', TENN., Nov. 20, 1964. Brevet Maj.-Gen. Wilson, Columbia. Sin: I have the honor to report that my sconta have found no large Confederate force within wenty miles of this place. At Clifton they met outs, and upon other roads encountered small parties, who appear to be watching our movements. ir scouts in the direction of West Point went within three miles of the place, but the roads from the incessant rains had become almost impassable They crossed over to the Florence road. Upon this cross-road they ran upon a courier line, which appeared to be intended to extend to the Columbia It is said by the professed Union citizens here that this is the line by which the Confederates secure constant information from Columbia of all our ovements. This line will be broken up to-day. No intelligence from General Hatch has yet been

The heavy scouting and the manner of foraging hich our men and horses are subjected to is fast using up the horses. Each near is compelled to pack in his forage for miles upon the back of his rse that he has been scouting upon day and night. There is absolutely nothing within a radius of fit teen miles of this place. The country is completely aid waste by the troops of both armies constantly

> Very respectfully, &c., Honace Capnon, Commanding 1st Brigade C. C., A. O.

CONTRADICTORY ORDERS. On the 21st of November, just before dark, the following dispatch from Major-General

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OTHO.

Pelaski, Tenn., Nov. 20, 1864. COLONEL: I have just received your report of the 18th. You seem to have entirely misunderstood your instructions, and I expect to hear of the capunt Pleasant, as far as the intersection of the Laurenceburg road, and from that point scout towards Laurenceburg and Waynesboro' and on the lateral roads

General Hatch reports Forrest's cavalry advance ig towards Laurenceiturg yesterday moon. Possibly you may get this in time

J. M. SCHOVIELD, Respectfully, It is difficult to understand how or in what I misunderstood General Schofield's order of

the 15th, which I repeat here: "General Hatch reports cavalry and infantry noving from Florence towards Waynesboro', and thinks Hood's entire army is moving towards Coimbia. General Hatch is thoying his entire force in that direction Communicate with him as soon

Keep out well to the front, in presence of the escary, and inform me of his movements; also in-form Colonel Strickland, at Columbia.

Now, my last two heavy scouting parties sent out on my left to communicate with General Hatch passed through Laurenceburg on the 18th, three days after General Schofield's order was penned, but could hear nothing from General Hatch; and as Waynesboro' was the point for which he was heading I pressed forward to meet him, and also to find the enemy I was to keep in presence of. One thing is evident, that had I not followed out to the very letter General Schofield's order of the 15th Hood would have captured Columbia and cut off General Schofield's command.

On the same evening (the 21st) I received the following dispatch by courier from Columbia,

wire from Pulaski: PULASEI, Nov. 20, 1864. Colonel Capros: Move your command back towards Mount Pleasant, to the intersection of the Laurenceburg road, Look out for Forrest on your left.

J. M. Schoffeld, Major-General. Another dispatch, through Colonel Strick and. I received during the night, as follows: Teli Colonel Capaco to watch and delay Forrest's novements, and try and unite with General Hatch, who will move between Forrest and the railroad. J. M. SCHOPPELD.

Major-General.

FALLING RACK TO LAURENCEBURG. Axticipating the order to retire from my exposed position, I had the day before sent back my wagons and ambulances with the wounded.

They reached Columbia in safety, At the time of receiving General Schofield's order to fall back it was nearly night. Rain, River towards Clifton, West Point, and in our front towards Florence, no one could tell how far, and the roads were in a most shocking condition. These scouts had to be brought in. In the meantime my force was drawn up in column once. Guerrillas reported on the hills between | in readiness to march at a moment's notice. At 9 o'clock p. m. the bugle sounded "forward," Movember 15. Immediately on the receipt | most bottomless. We reached the intersection | cades similar to the present and for the same | quick,

tempt to communicate with General Hatch at Laurenceburg, fourteen miles distant.

On the 22d I received the following communication from General Hatch, the first received: HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, CAV. CORPS. LAURENCEBURG, Nov. 22, 1864.

Colonel Carron, commanding Brigade of Cavalry on Mount Pleasant Road; I learn you have fallen back from Waynesboro', your right flank; endeavor to learn if the enemy are moving around your right towards Nashville I will keep your left well scouted. If pressed on

our right, fall back by your left on me. Your obedient servant, EDWARD HATCH,

Brigadier-General. On the 23d of November I reported to General Schofield at Pulaski, via Columbia, as fol-

HEADQR'S CAV. BRIG., C. C., O. M., At the Junction of Mount Pleasant and Laurence

Major-General J. M. Schovield. Sin: Your dispatch, by courier, dated the 20th at Pulaski, received. I inclose you copy of your tele-graphic order of the 15th, as it was delivered to me, or your inspection. The result of my reconnaissances to Waynesboro'

under that order I have forwarded you by courier

to Columbia as they transpired. I fell back to this point, agreeable to your orders of the 20th, this being the only point between this and Waynesboro' where forage could be obtained opened communication with General Hatch yes terday at Laurenceburg, and shall net under his orders and scont the country on my right thoroughly. It is certain that no considerable force of the enemy has passed my right on this side of the Tennessee River in the direction of Nashville. All scorts and squads of the enemy that we have interepted were moving in a southerly direction, probably returning from sconting duty,

Very respectfully, HORACE CAPRON, Colonel, Commanding Brigade. SCOUTING TO THE RIGHT.

Immediately upon the receipt of General Hatch's dispatch of the 22d, I sent out scouting parties-under competent officersconsisting of from fifteen to twenty men each, both on my front and to my right, with orders to extend their reconnaissance to the front until the enemy were felt, and on my right as far as the Tennessee River, if found necessary to obtain positive information courier any important information.

During the night of the 23d I became satisprotect my left and keep open our communica- a long distance back, but not yet received. tion, I would have a thorough reconnaissance

party were either killed or taken prisoners. Our situation was critical, the emergency demanding prompt action to secure my command from being surrounded and captured. The first thing to be attended to was to bring in our scouts; the one on my right, commanded by my son, Lieutenant Albert B. Capron, of instructions to scout to the Tennessee Riversome twenty miles. The next in importance tion for these parties to fall back upon,

Our present position, with our left unprotected, could be easily turned, and was consequently untenable. Two miles in my rear was found a more suitable position, with a straight open road for a small force left in the first barricades to fall back upon if forced to retreat

Two squadrons under the command of Major connelly, of the Fourteenth Illinois cavatry, were left in the first barricades, with instructions to hold them until our scoats came in, if possible; or, if forced out, to fall back upon our second position. With the balance of the command I proceeded to erect a second line of barricades, leaving open a space sufficient for the

A NIGHT ATTACK BY FORREST.

It was approaching night when all was in readiness. The troops were dismounted and placed behind the defenses, with a strict caution not to mistake a rapidly approaching body of our own men for the enemy. In momentary expectation that something important would transpire. I waited the result at the opening in our line of barricades. By my side was Major Back and my adjutant-general, Captain Wells, both of the Eighth Michigan cavalry, with a small sustaining force. Just as darkness was settling upon us, and it became too obscure to | mislead them in regard to the strength of our | the "Official Records of the War of the Rebelas practicable, and when your forces meet act under distinguish troops by their dress at any dis- force, which I believed they were somewhat lion," now being published, I will only add the tance, a column of dust raised by a rapidly approaching cavalry force appeared advancing from the direction of our first position. Orders were repeated to withhold the command to fire until assured that this was not a part of our own men. In an instant of time a force of clamsy Springfield muskets every cavalryman Forrest's cavalry charged in upon us, and delivered their fire over the barricades directly n the faces of our men. They had flanked our first position, as it was conjectured they would. rent asunder, and our men from the front appeared any possible chance for even a tempodashed into our lines. It appears that the rary check, but with little success. In this scouts had been brought in and were mounted manner we were forced back upon Columbia. for a leisurely retreat upon our second position. At about half the distance we came upon our The uproar and firing was heard, and their stant the resolution was formed to make the the road. Hood's whole army closely followed attempt to cut their way out through the attacking forces. The column was immediately put in motion, headed by Major Connelly and Licutenant Capron, of the Fourteenth Illinois | hind this a small force was rallied, and a few cavalry, and Captain Smith, of the Eighth | volleys produced a momentary check upon the Michigan, with the result as above stated.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES. captured; Sergeant-Major Allen and fifteen men captured and others wounded; Captain Renshaw, assistant adjutant general, captured; sleet, and snow was falling heavily. My scouts | Lieutenant Bowen, of the Fourteenth, with | were out in the direction of the Tennessee | twenty-five men out on a scout, cut off, but subhorses and several of his men. Precantionary | the war. measures against a second night attack upon our weakened forces by this dashing, confident enemy were immediately taken. Major Beers, with a battalion of picked men, was ordered back some six miles towards Mount Pleasant, of time, the head of a column of infantry was and the march was commenced through sleet, with instructions to select another defensible seen approaching across a field from the direcsnow, mud, and black darkness, over roads al- position and throw up another line of barri- tion of Pulaski. They were on the double

immediately dispatched couriers in another at- grand army that was upon us, and the only possible thing for us to do was to oppose their advance in every possible way, and at every hazard of being captured or ridden down. Generals Schofield and Wilson, in the meantime, were fully apprised of our desperate condition.

During the night of the 23d, the enemy having been beaten off for the time, ceased to annoy us, but it was fully known that a heavy on the read to Mount Pleasant. If so, hold on hoy us, but it was fully known that a heavy where you are until pressed back. Scout well to force was concentrating for a final capture of my force in the morning. I therefore quietly withdrew under the cover of night from this second line of barricades in the direction of Mount Pleasant, passing through Major Beer's position, leaving him instructions at the proper time to join me at our fourth position. About four miles out from Columbia, and near enough for us to receive support in ease of an attack in force, which I well knew they were advancing for, I selected as good a position as was possible in the darkness, and at once threw up another, the fourth line of defenses, and dismounting my men placed them within them. Hourly couriers were sent to General Hatch's command on that line is General Wilson. He was notified of the desperate condition of my command, and the determined and resolute advance of the enemy.

> TRON-CLAD ORDERS. Before daylight on the morning of the 24th, the following dispatch was received from General Wilson's headquarters:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,

COLUMBIA, TENN., Nov. 24, 1864. Six I am directed by the general commanding to say that you will hold your position as long as possible, and he will send the Fifth Iowa cavalry to support you.

This dispatch was closely followed by another, both reaching me before break of day :

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, COLUMBIA, TENN., Nov. 24, 1864. Sin: The general commanding has just received dispatch from General Scholield to send you word to hold Mount Pleasant at all hazards.

JOHN B. McLERY. Lieut., A. A. A. G. Having carefully considered the condition of in regard to any movements of the enemy passing | my depleted and crippled force, I found that it had been reduced, what with deaths, capture, disability, couriers, detached service, by estimate, to be about six hundred men; of horses, fied that Hood's army was advancing upon us | there was not one in the command actually fit in force, and I determined that, notwithstand- for service; ammunition nearly exhausted; ing General Hatch's assurance that he would | bread, none. Ammunition had been requested

With this small, disorganized force I was left made of the country between me and Laurence- to face what was probably one of the most burg. Before daylight on the morning of the | thoroughly organized and equipped forces of 24th I sent out a strong patrol bearing a mes- this war, advancing full of confidence and ensave to General Hatch. They had been out thusiasm, many of them actually in full view probably one and a half hours when two of the of their own homes and families, from which number came into the camp under a full run, they had so long been shut off. Instructions without their caps. They had run into a brigade | were rained upon me to check, to hold, at all of Forrest's cavalry, who were baiting their | hazards, the advancing foe, and no signs of horses in a large corn-field about half-way relief visible or reported, and only the short between the two camps. The balance of the space of four miles from the headquarters of Schofield's army in the field.

CONFRONTING HOOD'S ARMY. Daylight found us once more behind these temporary defences, the near approach of the enemy reported momentarily by our videttes. At 7 o'clock on the morning of the 24th, still no relief or support, but another order to hold company A. Fourteenth regiment Illinois cay- on. The advance-guard of Hood's army came alry, might have found it important under my | into sight, and began to deploy with evident intention of cutting off and capturing my whole command. From an elevated position was to arrange my command, to hold this posi- I could plainly see through my field-glass their movements. Artillery was visibly approaching in the distance. Forrest's cavalry were gradually developing in force on both my flanks. It was apparent from their movements that they were expecting to be opposed by a much more powerful force, as rightly they should have been, at the very threshold of a place of so much importance to both approach-

There was now no time left for further from Columbia. The simple question was whether, by sacrificing my whole command, I should gain more time for General Schofield than I would by withdrawing them and trusting to chance for being able to still oppose force left at the front to pass freely through if | further resistance to their advance. The question of our capture was reduced to a certainty

in a very few minutes more if we remained. I resolved to draw off my command with as little show of an intention to retire as possible. Leaving a small force behind the barricades to keep up the appearance to still further oppose them, the column was drawn out under an order to "walk march," Our retreat was protected from the view of the enemy by the formation of the land and some timber, in which was placed small detachments, partially withdrawn to deceive the enemy as far as possible of our intentions, and, in part, to apprehensive of, the column was fairly in than a consciousness upon the faces of the men of their critical position, and their utter helplessness when mounted, encumbered by these

can readily understand that.

ATTACKED AND ROUTED. I had congratulated myself upon a successful movement, when, upon a sudden, my rear-Their fire was promptly returned, and a rapid | guard was overwhelmed and driven in upon aterchange followed. In the midst of the us, with Forrest's command sabering them at soise and confusion of the battle a shout and their discretion. Every effort was made to firing were heard in the rear of this attacking | check this charge and prevent a stampede. force, and in the next moment their line was | Small parties were thrown out when there ammunition wagons (which, too late, had precarious condition fully realized. In an in- started for Columbia) capsized directly across Forrest's advance.

Near Columbia a small stream crosses the road, with a somewhat sunken channel. Beimpetuosity of the enemy, while the very sight of their homes upon the heights of Co-Our casualties were: Major Buck, severely jumbia appeared to stimulate them into a perfect wounded; Captain Wells, mistaking the at- frenzy of courage. One gallant captain of tacking force for our men, dashed through the Forrest's command, mounted upon a splendid gap to meet and guide them through, and was black charger, rode fearlessly up to the very edge of the chasm and demanded an immediate surrender. A musket ball penetrated his brain and he fell to the ground within sight of his home. I learned, but have forgotten his name. His famous horse was captured by my sequently reported, having lost most of the youngest son, Ormond, who rode him through

> RE-ENFORCED IN THE NICK OF TIME. It was our last stand; not a man had come out from Columbia to our support, and all was given up as lost, when, at the very last moment

of General Schofield's order of this date, I of the Laurenceburg road towards morning, and | purpose. It was the advance-guard of Hood's I It proved to be General Cox's division of

Major-General Schofield's army, who, moving back from Pulaski, and hearing the heavy fir ing on the line of our retreat, and rightly con jecturing the true position of things, had di verged from his regular road, and thrown his command between my forces and the Confederates not one moment to soon to save us and

Columbia from capture. There can be no questioning the fact that the saving of Columbia from capture, and General Schoffeld from being cut off and forced to fight his way out against Hood's powerful army of 40,000 men, is attributable to the presence of this brigade at Waynesboro' at that particular crisis. Whether there through a misapprehension of General Schofield's order of the 15th of November or the execution of that order to the very letter, as understood by me, is quite im material; the result speaks for itself. I have never known what portion of Hood's

army came up through Laurenceburg, but that the direct advance upon Columbia was not materially delayed by the interposition of Establishment of the First Milishown by the fact that seven hours after my command had been driven into Columbia on the morning of the 24th by a heavy force of Hood's army coming up through Waynesboro' before which we had been pressed back, fight ing over every inch of ground since the 21st I received the following order from General Wilson to send out a squadron to look for General Hatch's command, which had not been heard from after 9 p. m. of the 23d. My communication with him was severed on the night of the 22d, when a force of General Forrest's cavalry was shoved in between us at the junction of the Waynesboro' and Laurenceburg roads. The following is a correct copy of General Wilson's communication referred to:

LOOKING FOR GENERAL HATCH. HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS, M. D. M. COLUMBIA, TENN, NOV. 24, 2 p. m., 1864. GENERAL: Please send a squadron, under a good, active officer, out on the Louisville pike, with orders to go till be presses the rear of Waters brigade, or to the neighborhood of the Compbellsville road, and endeavor to find General Hatch. and trying to reach the military road, through Campbellsville this morning. After the to march direct to this place by the pike if possible should be not be able to keep on the pike and have o pass to the castward, direct him to cross Duck River as near this phase.

1. H. Wilson, his condition and location.

By't Maje-Gen., Com'dg.

To Brig. Gen. R. W. Jonsson, Com'dg Cav. Div. The above order was turned over to me with the following indersement:

Headquartens, Cav. Div., November 22, 1864. Respectfully referred to Colonel Horace Capron, who will order the squadron as within Lieut. Monnes, Lieut., A. A. G.

By order of Brig. Gen. Jourson. It is apparent from the above communica tion that by the sudden advance of Hood in force upon the Waynesboro' road, which was his most direct route, General Hatch had been flanked and his communication cut off not only with me but with Columbia, and forced to take a circuitous route to reach Columbia via Campbellsville or further east-in fact, across the line of General Schofield's retreat from Pulaski-reaching Columbia ten or more hours after the two armies had come in contact at

the very entrance into the town. It was my dispatch of the 18th from Waynesboro' that first started General Schofield from Pulaski on the double quick, and subsequent hourly couriers that kept him moving at the same pace which brought the advance-guard in not one moment too soon.

Mossy Creek.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I have read with considerable interest the several articles which have appeared in your paper, and have found the incidents narrated so far as I had a personal knowledge, in the main correct. In your paper of February 8 is deliberation. I had given up all hope of relief a description of the fight at Mossy Creek. Al though I am quite sure I was there and on the field in the immediate command of all the troops engaged with the enemy, yet those who did not know I was there, on reading the said article, would probably only infer that I was with the command, because, "in pursuance of orders given by General Grant," I "marched at the head of two brigades of General E. M. Mc

Cook, to co-operate with General Sturgis." The returns for December 20, show " Elliott's eavalry, 3,536;" " orders given General Elliott by Major Geneal Foster in person;" "General Elliott reported by courier to General Sturgis;" "the Union loss, mostly in General Elliott's command, was eighteen killed, seventy-seven

wounded and five prisoners," &c. Without going into the details of the engage ment at Mossy Creek, which, no doubt, will appear fully in the form of official reports in following extracts from letter of General George | still held: motion, with no apparent excitement more H. Thomas, commanding Army of the Cumberland, and note of General S. D. Sturgis in reply to my report of the affair near Mossy Creek, Tenn.:

HEADQU'RS DEFT, OF THE CUMBERLAND, Nushville, Tenn., May 10, 1865, General: I respectfully recommend the promotion of Brigadier General W. L. Elliott, U. unteers, to the rank of Major General of Volunteers

by Brevet, &c. liott was, October 3, 1863, ordered to duty in the Deartment of the Cumberland, and commanded the roops on the field at Mossy Creek, East Tennessee December 29, 1863, gallantly repulsing the attacks of a superior force of the enemy, finally following them until darkness put an end to the pursuit.

GEO. H. THOMAS, (Signed) Major General U. S. A., Commanding, To Brig. Gen. L. THOMAS, Adj't Gen. U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

Extract from note to General Elliott in reply to his report of engagement near Mossy Creek, East Tennessee, December 29, 1863; General: Your welcome dispatch is received. I got up in time to see a part and heard the balance. I congratulate you on having troops to charge with such a vim. You have done exceedingly well and I will telegraph so to General Fos-

S. D. STURGIS, (Signed) Brigadier General, &c. Respectfully, your obedient servant, W. L. ELLIOTT. Brevet Major General U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,

[The writer of Mossy Creek acknowledges | of 'Lincoln guns.' his negligence in not giving more credit to General Elliott, the brave and efficient chief of

February 17, 1883.

General Grant.

J. O. Hattendein, Twentieth Illinois infantry, of Humboldt, Kan., closes a brief letter on Pittsburg Landing with the following sly dig at Congress and ex-President Grant:

If the worthies in Congress were as much interested in soldiers' rights as they are in the welfare of Fitz-John Porter we would be better pleased with them. By the way, I notice that General Grant says "there are many soldiers who are as well off as they would have been if there had been no war." There are also many soldiers who think he is a good deal better off than he would have been if there had been no war,

Kentucky.

KENTUCKY NEUTRALITY

the State.

How it Affected the People of

DICK ROBINSON. CAMP

tary Camp.

CHAPTER II.

lature, and, while both thereafter used it as a | in the event of a general war self-interest ability of the State to maintain her neutrality | either party to the contest. A proclamation of support the National Government in the strug- coln for the suppression of the rebellion, and He was, 9 p. m. last night, four miles beyond Campbellsville, on the road towards Laurenceburg. gle for life, while the latter, preferring the the belief that the ultimate triumph of the officer has found General Hatch, let him order him | to preserve the State from the horrors of civil | touched, at least in those States that had not rett Davis, Dr. Robert J. Breckenridge, Lieu- prompted many slaveholders to remain neu-Burbridge, Hon. John W. Finnell, Thomas L. | Confederate army, while they cordially sym-Judge Goodloe, Hon. C. C. Burton, W. T. Ward, J. T. Boyle, John M. Harian, James Speed, and

THE UNION PEACE PARTY.

Hon, John J. Crittenden, a lifelong Whig, the cherished friend of Henry Clay, was the | visited Kentucky, aided by native secessionist acknowledged leader of the peace party. As a scouted the idea that the Republican party man he was loved and honored, and as a states- the North, having elected a President by ment, formed no part of his political creed. He Ohio. loved the Union as only a great-hearted statesman can love his country, recognizing no section as paramount in his affections, and from the first | ant factions. The masses, distracted by alterapproach of the night of rebellion which nate hopes and fears, doubtful as to their duty, been exerted toward conciliating the men some who pleaded with them to stand by the whom he still regarded as his misguided breth- National Government at all hazards, and of ren. Animated solely by the lofty purpose of others to join the fortunes of the young Coureuniting the North and South, Mr. Crittenden | federacy, in whose cause they had an equal inand his co-workers hoped and believed that a | terest. general war could be avoided. That they continued to believe so long after the fact was patent to every one else that the war had actually begun, must be attributed to the inflexi- to remain in the Union, and by the Union bility of purpose that had always been a char- | wing of the same party, to remain true to the acteristic of the courageous leader. The war | Union and to the Government, but to abstain was deemed so causeless, so wicked, and with- from any act that would invite invasion of the out the shadow of provocation, that the masses | State from either side. who followed Mr. Crittenden believed, with him, that something might be done to avert the horrible calamities that all felt must follow a general war, but there never was a time when these men hesitated as to the duty of Kentucky, and her purpose, when the time for June, an order was issued at the War Depart-

action should come, if come it must. A LETTER FROM GENERAL FINNELL.

conveys an intelligent idea of the estimation in | muster into the service of the United States 10,000 which the followers of General Crittenden are men. Arms and accourrements and an ample

hearts of the old Whig or Union and Douglas | transport them to their destination he was au-Democrats of Kentucky was unspeakably ar- thorized to muster into the service of the United dent and earnest, and at no period was it more | States four regiments in Southeast Kentucky, intense and abiding than at this time. The The officer designated for this duty was Lieuposition of the Union men in Kentucky was | tenant William Nelson, of the United States exceptional. The entire military organization Navy. of the State was under the control of the rebel Having served in various departments and differ- interest. With the exception of 5,000 muskets, ent sections of the country, Brigadier General El- furnished by the Government, they were with- Union men in the adjoining counties, Nelson

ganization. them but slowly. Besides, it very soon became manifest that to a vast number of Union men it meant the sacrifice of nearly every tie of interest and consanguinity. Neutrality, the National Government. therefore, was an expedient, and deemed of tions might be burned to ashes; and it is altogether possible that less imaginative pa- Grass Region." triots regarded it as an exceedingly proper thing until they could obtain another supply | tion, - the one to Louisville and the other to

spirit of self-sacrifice than that which animated | separate routes for the transportation of supcavalry of the Army of the Cumberland, and, the Union people of Kentucky in that struggle, plies communication with the base at Cincinhat in hand, salutes him across the continent.] from the attack upon Fort Sumter to the sur- nati was regarded as secure. In case the railroad render of Fort Donelson. There never was bridges should be burned by the secessionists wiser statesmanship or more masterly diplo- the turnpikes to Maysville and other points macy than was displayed by the Union leaders | afforded access to the North. Between the during the long season of doubt in the summer | camp and Nicholasville is the Kentucky River, of 1861. Nothing was clearer, even then, than | whose precipitous banks and deep gorges afthat if the war became general, national success | forded many good positions for successful resistmeant the sacrifice of an immense property | ance in case an attack from a superior force interest; that the position of the State with the advancing from the southeast made it necessary National Government involved the sacrifice of for the recruits to fall back before they were friends, the separation of families, possibly to sufficiently well organized to protect themselves the Union people a surrender of their homes, in the open country. the work of a lifetime of care and labor, and

with that, expatriation from the land they dearly loved.

"Stigmatized as 'Abolishionists' and 'Sabmissionists,' and with every epithet made hateful by their education, history and tradithe Political Situation in tions, the Union men worked steadily on until by their wisdom and courage they were able at last to encircle the Commonwealth in the arms of her loyal people, and thus save her to

THE SOUTHERN RIGHTS PARTY.

Another formidable class of people, by reason

of their wealth and influence, was composed of

the Nation."

citizens who, while they had no intention of taking up arms for the secession of the State or for the Southern Confederacy, sympathized with the cause for which the South had rebelled, and were styled Southern Rights pegple. This class comprised a large portion of the slaveholders in Central Kentucky, and became more numerous toward the southwest, until in that portion of the State bordering upon Tennessee, lying south of the Cumberland, known as the "Purchase," almost the entire population were in full sympathy with the rebellion. To this class either Government was acceptable, provided their right to hold slaves was guaranteed. The establishment of The anomalous position of the neutrality a Southern Confederacy, based upon this right, party in Kentucky in 1861 has made it the had at first presented the attractive feature of subject of much unfavorable comment. As permanent protection to this species of propa party it never had an existence. The dis- erty. The conciliatory measures adopted by ordant elements that composed it in April | State and National Legislative Assemblies toand May had produced disintegration in June. | ward the South, followed by the spontaneous Its waxen wings, Union and secession, had uprising of the Northern people in response to melted beneath the penetrating sunlight of a | the call of the President, without regard to heated political contest for control of the Legis- | former political alliances, convinced many that shield, neither had any confidence in the pointed to a passive resistance to the appeals of by force of arms. The Union portion again | emancipation at that time would have precipldivided after the election-which resulted in tated Kentucky into secession, with no power scating a majority of Union men in the Legica- in the hands of the Union men to avert it. ture-into active and passive Union men. The But thus far the slavery question had been former were willing to make any sacrifice to ignored in the measures adopted by Mr. Lin-Union to the Confederacy, were still auxious | National Government would leave slavery unwar. Chief among the former were Hon. Gar- taken up arms against the Government, tenant Wm. Nelson, James S. Jackson, S. G. tral, and even to discourage enlistments in the Crittenden, Joshua F. Speed, Hon. Joseph Holt, pathized with the cause for which the Southern

States contended. DIVISION OF COUNSELS. This belief, however, was by no means general. The prophetic soul of Mr. Yancy and other Southern orators, who from time to time man he was held in reverence by the people of overwhelming majority, would accept half his State and Nation. During a long public measures in dealing with slavery, if they should career his voice had never sounded an uncer- in the end find themselves in position to dictate tain note where the honor of his country had terms of peace to a vanquished enemy. The been involved. Untainted by the political advocates of secession, appealing to their atmosphere of the Capitol at Washington, he chivalric character, urged upon them their duty had preserved his integrity and led a blameless | to stand by their "Southern brethren who life in the midst of a conspiracy that impa- were engaged in battling for rights that were tiently bided its time to accomplish its treason- as dear to Kentuckians as to themselves," and able ends. The Syren songs of the secessionists, asked if they were indeed degenerate sons of that had ensuared so many weaker men from | the brave pioneers who had shouldered their the border States, had no charms for this incor- trusty rifles and marched through the pathless ruptible patriot; the dogma of "State rights," | wilderness northward to the great lakes to which had precipitated ten States into rebellion | avenge the savage atrocities of the Indians against the authority of the National Govern- committed upon the infant settlements in

It will thus be seen that the people in this portion of the State were divided into discordnow enveloped the South his influence had were subjected to the constant harangues of

They were urged by the secession wing of the neutrality party to maintain an attitude of armed resistance to the National authority, but

THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A HAND.

It now became the fixed purpose of the General Government to protect the loyal citizens of Kentucky and Tennessee in their constitutional rights, and to this end, on the 27th of ment consolidating the States of Kentucky and Tennessee in a military district, under command The following extract from a recent letter of Brigadier-General Robert Anderson, who was written by General Jno. W. Finnell to the writer | directed to send an officer to East Tennessee to supply of ammunition were ordered to Cincin-"The love for the Union which filled the nati for the use of that number of men, and to

CAMP DICK ROBINSON.

After conference with prominent National out arms, and they were totally without or- determined to locate his camp of instruction in Garrard county, at the farm of Mr. Dick Rob-"They were strangers to war. While their inson, a firm adherent to the Government, at faith in the good sense and patriotism of the the junction of the Danville turnpike with the great mass of the people had been realized at the | pike leading from Nicholasville to Crab Orchard, polls, the conviction that the war was a strug- in the direction of Cumberland Gap. A rich gle for the existence of the Nation came upon | and fertile country under a high state of cultivation surrounded the camp. A fair proportion of the inhabitants were friendly to the enterprise, many of whom were ardent supporters of

Nicholasville, eight miles distant, was the value, in the hope-in the poetic fancy and | southern terminus of the Kentucky Central fervid imagination of that day-that there, 'on Railroad, connecting it with Cincinnati; the bosom of the first born of the Union, un- while only twelve miles farther north, on stained by fratricidal blood, the altar might be the line of the same road, is the city of Lexbuilt upon which the mad passions of both sec- ington, located in the centre of that beautiful portion of Kentucky known as "The Blue

From Lexington two railroads were in opera-Cincinnati, -while broad turnpike roads led by "There never was in all history a more heroic | various routes to the Ohio River. With these